

## NOAA Sea Grant Hurricane Katrina Initial Response

- Sea Grant and the National Marine fisheries Service are collaborating to put a **Vietnamese-speaking Sea Grant extension agent** on the ground in Mississippi to work on recovery efforts with the fishing industry. Sea Grant is working with NOAA Grants Management Division to award the grant on an emergency basis before the end of FY05. NMFS will provide \$59K to Sea Grant on a passthrough basis. The agent will assist the Asian communities in understanding hurricane relief programs (FEMA, Red Cross, etc.) as well as NOAA Fisheries disaster programs that may be implemented. The agent will also collaborate with NOAA Fisheries, Pascagoula Lab in meeting immediate needs for communicating with Asian fishermen in the Gulf Region.
- Some students have lost everything and many school districts have taken in hundreds of additional students. The National Sea Grant Law Center is collecting **extra book bags, backpacks, message bags, pens, etc. left from past conferences. In addition, notebooks, notebook paper, construction paper, crayons, tablets, glue sticks, markers and Kleenex (small packets) are helpful.** The Law Center will load the bags full of supplies and distribute them to displaced students and school districts throughout the state in the coming weeks and months.  
**Shipping address:**  
Sea Grant Law Center  
University of Mississippi  
Kinard Hall, Room 258 E  
University, MS 38677  
If you have any questions about the Sea Grant Law Center's relief efforts, please contact Stephanie Showalter, Josh Clemons or Waurene Roberson a call at (662) 915-7775, or email [sshowalt@olemiss.edu](mailto:sshowalt@olemiss.edu), [jecclemon@olemiss.edu](mailto:jecclemon@olemiss.edu), [waurene@olemiss.edu](mailto:waurene@olemiss.edu).
- The **Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium website** is back online and is being hosted at the University of Southern Mississippi in the interim:  
<http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/SGLC>
- **Louisiana Sea Grant** is currently in the process of **building a website that will serve as clearinghouse for hurricane recovery resources** for the public, businesses and policymakers. A number of Louisiana universities are contributing products and resources to the effort.
- **Texas Sea Grant has offered to house offices for displaced NMFS employees** in the Gulf region
- **Gulf Sea Grant Directors** (including: MS-AL, LA, TX, FL, GA, SC, NC) met via conference call to discuss **short-term next steps** (more to come)
- Gulf Sea Grant states will issue a **public service announcement** in multiple languages with **basic public health information** such as possible adverse effects of contaminated water, information re: tetanus, etc.

- Sea Grant is identifying **translators** who will be able **to provide the same basic public health information to fishermen** whose first language is not English (specifically Vietnamese)
- NOAA's National Sea Grant Office will provide **rapid response funding to address critical, short term needs in the programs affected** (e.g. shrimp and oyster monitoring - the oyster industry is currently closed from Apalachicola, FL to Galveston, TX)
- **Entire Sea Grant network** stands at the ready to provide **technical assistance, provide office housing, etc.**
- ***Smart Rebuild*** - Amy Zimmerling in the NOAA National Sea Grant Office, has taken the lead along with the Gulf and South Atlantic Coast Sea Grant programs to develop a strategy for **Sea Grant's participation in coastal community recovery.**
- ***Coastal Hazards*** – The National Sea Grant Library, based at the University of Rhode Island, has an **online Coastal Hazards Digital Library** available at <http://nsgl.gso.uri.edu/hazard.html#HUR>

that includes documents from around the country on hurricane preparedness, impacts, reconstruction, etc. Beyond being a valuable reference, publications on the web site provide a good **summary of Sea Grant capabilities in this area.**